

VZCZCXRO2886
PP RUEHAG RUEHDF RUEHIK RUEHLZ RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHVI #0468 1071532
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 171532Z APR 09
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2396
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES

UNCLAS VIENNA 000468

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EFIN](#) [AU](#)
SUBJECT: Austria Strongly Supports Kosovo IMF/WB
Membership Bid

REF: State 0266

¶1. Post delivered reftel demarche to Dr. Edith Frauwallner (head of international affairs at Austria's MinFin) along with UK, French, and Italian embassy representatives and in coordination with the German embassy in Vienna.

¶2. MinFin rep replied that formal action rests with the Austrian National Bank, whose Governor Ewald Nowotny WILL vote in favor of Kosovo's membership bid and seek to influence other countries. Frauwallner described Austria as one of Kosovo's earliest and most steadfast supporters -- and willing to sway others if possible. For instance, FinMin Proell will soon meet Romania's finance minister and could conceivably raise the topic. Erhard Busek, former Special Coordinator of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, is also engaged on the issue.

¶3. GoA rep asked whom Austria might usefully "target" for lobbying on the membership bid. EconPol Counselor cited European countries who have recognized and/or are not actively opposed to an independent Kosovo. The UK Embassy rep cited Slovakia and asked if Austria could sound out Czech capacities for action given its government crisis. Frauwallner surmised that the Spring Meetings will provide more clarity.

¶4. Post learned separately that Austrian National Bank Governor Nowotny has submitted a written vote in favor of Kosovo's IMF application.

KILNER